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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/766,162	01/28/2004	Andi Vonlanthen	31856US3	3393

116 7590 03/24/2005

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EXAMINER

LE, HUYEN D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2643

DATE MAILED: 03/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/766,162

Applicant(s)

VONLANTHEN, ANDI

Examiner

HUYEN D. LE

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 February 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4-8 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/340,951.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 01/28/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of claims 1-3 and 9 in the reply filed on 02/23/2005 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meyer (U.S. patent 4,890,330) in view of Kerns (U.S. patent 6,144,748).

Regarding claims 1 and 9, Meyer teaches a method and apparatus of a hearing aid housing (1, 2) that has a base part (figures 1, 2 and 7) and a module (10) for a wired signal transmission. The module (10) is mounted to the base part of the housing (2) via a pivot bearing (4, col. 2, lines 59-62).

Meyer does not specifically teach the module (10) for a wireless signal transmission. However, it is very well known in the art to provide a wired or wireless communications link between an audio connection to a remote device.

Kerns teaches an auxiliary device (240) that is connected to the hearing device (210). The auxiliary device (240) provides a wired or wireless communications link for receiving and delivering audio information to the hearing device (col. 1, lines 61-64 and col. 2, lines 57-61).

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Since Kerns does not restrict to the type of audio connection to the hearing aid (col. 3, lines 38-41 and lines 55-58 through col. 4, lines 1-3, figures 2, 7); it therefore would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide any type of audio connection such as an auxiliary device, as taught by Kerns, to the hearing aid of Meyer for achieving a wireless communications link between the hearing aid device and a remote device.

Regarding claims 2 and 9, Meyer shows the module (10) that has a battery (18).

Regarding claim 3, Meyer shows that the module (10) attached to the base part of the hearing aid housing (2) establishes electric feed to the base part as claimed (figures 2, 7).

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Geraci et al. teaches a module (11) that is secured within a battery compartment of the hearing aid (12) for adjusting a circuitry of the hearing aid to a desired frequency response.

Batting (US 2004/0062409) teaches a communication element (5) and a battery drawer (4) to be pivotally mounted to a hearing aid housing.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HUYEN D. LE whose telephone number is (703) 305-4844. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30AM-6:00PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, CURTIS KUNTZ can be reached on (703) 305-4708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



HL
March 18, 2005



HUYEN LE
PRIMARY EXAMINER